

2017 Bismarck Livability Survey Results

SWOT: City Government

Strengths

Canright & Ron knutson

Our mayor.

Mike Seminary and Nancy Guy

People and the hope they are smart enough to elect competent leadership

A city commission and mayor that want to improve this city through research & healthy change. This brave local leadership is not always "popular," but they are doing the right thing, based on facts and science. I believe most of the young and intelligent citizens appreciate and recognize that.

Mayor Seminary is working to build a more attractive community.

Good leadership past and present

The leadership

The mayor

There is a significant amount of care amongst our Commissioners and City leaders as it pertains to the safety and general well-being of the residents of Bismarck.

The mayor has done a wonderful job encouraging the revitalization of downtown.

It's ability to get things done regardless of what the public want.

Political leadership runs from far right to slightly right of center

Weaknesses

Sprawl and politics. Nothing makes me more afraid of putting down long term roots in Bismarck than hearing some of the political deviations and misinformation between people with money and special interests trying to push an agenda that would halt downtown development, increase sprawl, raise taxes, hurt public services and halt any economic growth.

The current leaders

Mayor and city commissioners doing things against the repeated votes of the community

Our current good old boys club

Too many people being supported by the government

Having all political subdivisions work together, be on the same page, have the same overall goals for Bismarck.

It's current mayor and city commission.

Our Mayor's terrible decision making.

The mayor

Seminary & the rest of the city commissioners

It's city commission!

City Government

NOT listening to the tax paying voters!

The way it is being run poor management

LoCall government not listening to what the people want.

The current administration

Leadership

Desire to make the city walkable and centralized

Leadership and lack of responsible spending.

The commissioners putting things through that we voted down. What's the purpose of voting if they do whatever they want.

a Mayor who does as he pleases

Poor govt spending means more taxes for the little people

Doing what citizens want done to improve city
The Mayor
Far right loud voices attacking the downtown programs with no one responding.
Our mayor!!! Get rid of him ASAP
Racism and political bigotry
people vote things down, and it doesn't matter
Renaissance program
Poor management of money uses for the whole betterment of the entire city
Favoritism with tax breaks. Just give tax breaks to ALL new or expanding businesses. Also, we need better concerts
Right wing nuts, drugs, politics
Not progressive in politics.
City control of development
The mayor
It's corrupt government agencies, the fact that the public works department hasn't kept up with growth, though new homes=more tax dollars taken in.
mayor
Inflicting the Seminary belief on the city. Not everyone wants to live downtown and not everyone can walk to everyone destination!!
A city commission that ignores its citizens request and concerns. they are like dealing with a thirteen year old, they spin words and use technicalities. we vote down an expansion they approach it from a different angle to say they are doing something different. Main Street is an experiment, really, its still one lane east and west.
The government ruining it with its careless spending
Government is too focused on the downtown/civic bubble.
Local government
Not following though with the voter's wishes
Current mayor and liberal or do nothing commissioners
Poor leadership not listening to the local people and instead pushing a downtown agenda nobody wants.
Local government and leaders
corrupt city government. Do What people want.
The city commission not listening to its citizens.
Local government that seems to push it's own agenda rather than listening to the every day citizens. It seems they listen better to those with excess funds to monopolize what happens downtown rather than paying attention to opportunities for the entire city.
Mayor seminary
Political Divide
Governance - favoritism toward certain areas of town
A government that does not listen to the people
City government
Poor city leadership
It's current leadership pushing agendas rather than encouraging entrepreneurs to build and expand and excel.
Zoning issues, traffic and parking issues which all boil down to poor planning. Also the city commission and legislature is getting too inmeshed with a few prominent business owners in Bismarck, keep a healthy distance and separation.
Those threatening the mayor.
Leadership that doesn't listen to the people.
City Staff - They need to remember who they work for
The mayor
Our Mayor
Too much emphasis on downtown...TIF, Quiet rail, Event center,5South are all the majority of commission seem concerned about
Cheap government

Lack of good leadership
Restrictive government and bureaucracy.
City government defying public wishes.
A mayor and city government that do not listen to the voice of its citizens, and do as they see fit
too much govenment
Mayor Seminary
The current city commission with its "central planning" and "sustainability" mentality that is disrupting the community we love.
Our Mayor's mentality.
City government that isn't listening to anyone but people with deep pockets
City Leadership is bad. Really bad. The mayor is arrogant.
City government not listening to citizens when they do or don't want something that is worthless or worthwhile.
Perceived, and maybe real bureaucracy, in City government. City should be looking for ways to enhance and accelerate growth and economic development.
Bismarck is going through an identity crisis of what it should look like.
Mayor
the mayor and city commissioners
City leadership and planning.
City Government doesn't listen and spends to much money on things to enhance Bismarck, when they should be spending money on the infrastructure.
To fall into the same darkness so many cities have fallen prey to. Corruption in government, murder, and total ignorance of Godly morals.
City leadership, and school leadership. Both are spending money on ideas which are not sustainable or an investment with a return. Middle schools are being added on to as a band aid where a new one is needed. Horizon is being added to so it will be able to accomodate a net of 80 students for roughly \$13 million. The total bond is around \$57 million. We can build three solid schools and do updates on the high schools. Lack of vision.
Political Corruption and conservative government
Government picking winners
overlapping government entities lack of ability to work together
City Council doesn't listen to constituents
Lack of communication between the city & residents
lack of support to the City Commission and City Government
Poor planning by government officials.
Image problem. City Commission.
government
The city government officials.
The current city commission has divided the city !
The feeling that City elected officials are in the business of picking winners and losers as they view economic development. Again, let's look at agreed upon data that is not influenced by egos.
Political scene is negative.
Lack of diversity. Heavy government and healthcare influence sometimes prevents innovation.
The Mayor trying to make us something we're not.
City Government lost focus. Needs to get out of the downtown development and stick to basics. Street, Sewer, Water, Waste,
A mayor and city council that thinks it is better than its citizens, particularly the average citizen living in the average parts of town.
leadership and accountability to citizens.
Politics
Opportunities

A change in leadership so that we can manage our money better and not serve only special interest groups
Getting back to the basics. Giving the general public the opportunity of having a say in what is happening in our city.
Sorting-out, working through the community angst over DAPL.
A recall election of the mayor.
To remove our mayor.
A new city government
More conservative city government that governs by the will of the people.
To help the working class get ahead in life. Cutting taxes
Listening to the citizens and not doing what it wants!! We need a whole new line of leadership!
Recall
Cut taxes.
Recall the mayor & elect someone who actually gives a shit about the citizens.
Lower property taxes
Nothing with our mayor, all he cares about is the downtowners Association.
Lower taxes.
Listen to citizens
Less government
Recall the mayor?
Downtown improvement s and intelligent leadership.
Changing the people elected to office to regular citizens for the citizens not self promoting individuals.
Small government
Get rid of "good old boy politics"
Replacing city staff that has been there long than 10 years.
a certifies local government
Quit sucking at what the city government does
Governor Burgum's initiatives and ideas
Leadership at the State Capitol
Greater collaboration among community leaders
Removal of the renaissance zone and property tax relief
Embrace the new governor's "Main Street Initiative"
Mayor Recsll
Elect a different Mayor and some new city commission members.
Removing the current mayor and city council members and replacing them with people who care about the citizens vs. their own agendas and egos.
Threats
old leadership thinking
Adversarial politics resulting in stagnation, unwillingness to adapt. Keep doing/building the same thing.
the current mayors attitude and dangerous ideas
The leadership
Local government corruption and again having the good old boys club
Expanding government
same leadership going down the wrong path
The mayor and city commission.
Politics
Our current Mayor's reckless policies.
The mayor

Poor leadership
People who want to stop progress and recall the Mayor.
Seminary
Commission wasting tax dollars
Poor leadership which ignores the wishes of its residents. Lack of vision which coincides with our rural values. Lack of vision for city growth. Lack of cooperation with other political subs for future growth. Lack of leadership to work with other subs to direct the growth of Bismarck, not continually pplay catch up.
City Government
The poor ability to manage the received tax revenue, selling buildings off at a loss or less than market value.
Poor management
mismanagement
Lack of leadership, inability to attract anything but more franchises and therefore inhibiting growth of good local businesses
Cost of housing outpacing wages.
taxes ,
Mayor Seminary and his boys club who keep spending tax payer money. Right, Jeff Ubl, with Ubl Designs?
big government
High taxes.
Anti-government individuals
Continuing to expand city limits, creating expensive infrastructure without creating the tax base to afford it.
Local government not listen to citizens and wasting our taxes
High taxes
Bad city leadership
Those who don't understand how city government works who have created a platform for themselves through social media in an effort to try to tear down the system.
Toxic Leadership
Ourselves - we are so divided and un-willing to chip (taxes) in for services need yet, we complain when growth happens downtown, or a pothole doesn't get fixed or our streets are plowed to perfection.
Over priced housing, high taxes and poor roads.
It's leadership
Lack of vision with the current administration
Ignoring the citizens wishes
city council
City Commission/ City Engineers
Leadership not willing to adapt to new cultures
Miss use of money and budget cuts
Disproportionate property taxation.
Infatuation with downtown at the expense of neglecting the tray of the city
Our Mayor
Over taxed and not listening to its people
Lack of leadership
5 south and the city commission
At the moment, the media coverage of DAPL and a group of bullies trying to oust the mayor.
City commission and mayor seminary
Good ole boy club. Corruption of govt. officials
Property taxes
Government! Tax and spend crony capitalists!
Frivolous actions against the mayor at tax payor expense.
Poor leadership on their own agenda!

Greed of the government and political persons
City staff - just because you have done a certain way for 10 plus years does not make it correct today.
Leadership
The Mayor
our Mayor
South 5...corrupt leadership making decisions amongst friends rather than listening to the citizens of the community.
Current city leadership
State government
Regulation
Government and national economy
Indifferent city government.
Current city elected officials trying to slam their own agenda down the throat of citizens
too much government
Lack of quality leadership
high real estate taxes
Budgeting process and revenue
Legislative budget cuts
A small group of vocal people who turn everything into a ridiculous fight. For instance, the ridiculous movement to recall the Mayor, because he is not extreme tea party right wing enough. I love that we have a progressive mayor who "gets it." I certainly don't agree with him on a lot of things, but I think it's great to have someone middle of the road looking out for the best interests of ALL Bismarck residents. Also, the biggest threat is that the legislature and the state government will keep trying to pass backwards, racist laws that take away rights from citizens, the large chunk of us progressives that live here strictly for family will finally hit the last straw and move away.
City government controlled by bankers, business people and parties with a vested interest in making money at the taxpayers expense
Disconnect between city government and many of the residents
lack of listening to the taxpayer. we vote and you still do as you please
City government making decisions about what's best for the community, in opposition to what the community itself wants/needs.
Doug Burgum
anti tax groups
current mayor
Government downsizing
Continued growth of the "old boys" network in the city government. You can grow and change if you don't add new people with new ideas.
Us versus them mentality of community leaders
The old guard feeling that they are losing power and wanting to regain it.
Government officials that don't seem to listen to what their constituents really want from them.
City officials blocking way of growth and trend.
Mayor
The divide between North Bismarck and Downtown. There is a compromise where all can be happy! Just need to bring everyone together and on the same team.
crime - drugs, weapons, violence; spending on major projects against the vote of the people
Crushing conservatism. I think the Mayor has done a good job standing up to it in his tenure but there is no escaping it, especially with such prejudice coming from the state level.
High taxation. Lack of effort to secure impact funds emanating from the Bakken Oil Development.
A city divided....
Our leadership and lack of listening to the people when they vote.
A legislature and higher education board that does not support Bismarck State College.
The political climate forcing people out of the state or preventing them from moving here.
Poor Leadership

The mayor
Irresponsible spending by city hall
Its current government.
One-party political domination